

Minutes for Town of Lincoln Budget Board

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Budget Board was held on 3/3/16 at 100 Old River Road, Lincoln. It began at 7:30 and was presided over by Carl Brunetti, with Rhonda Lacombe as secretary.

Attendees

Voting members in attendance included: Rhonda Lacombe, Mike Babbitt, Robert Turner, David Hartley, William McManus, William DiBiasio, Maria Marcello, Paul Deutsch and Mike O'Connell

Guests in attendance included Town Administrator Joe Almond and Finance Director John Ward

Members not in attendance included: Felix Fernandes, Candace Larson

Approval of Minutes

A motion was made to approve the minutes with amendments of March 2, 2016 by Bill DiBiasio and seconded by Bob Turner.

Correspondence

Town administrator emailed, MOE, CPI and Adequate minimum budget for the School Department. TA to keep us informed with the progress in the Governors package hoping that there will be revisions. There is a hearing on Article 11 (Strengthening neighborhood schools) scheduled.

Review Questions of Budget Capital Request for Municipal

Animal Shelter: This is licensed by DEM there are certain requirements that need to be met, air quality, types of housing for the animals, separate viewing area for the animals to be adopted to name

a few. This will be part 1 and should be done in 2 phases. The first phase will be an addition 24x24 with a walkway, staff area, public restrooms, and private view area. Phase 2 will be 100K with new housing for the animals up to standards with separations, new outdoor runs also. This is also in a move to regionalize with other areas. Currently Cumberland has shown interest and possibly Smithfield and North Smithfield as we have the acreage to house them at which point costs will be shared. Bob Turner referenced TC notes of 2/23/16 that the intake was low and TA Almond said it is a time of year thing that we have some very heavy months. \$250,000 phase 1

Chase Farm Visitor Center: Currently the Town is asking for a grant of 400K which is an 80/20 the square feet of the building will be 1000 with a 500sft over hang as required. Built in the period style probably with a Gambrel roof. This will be constructed behind the blacksmith area near the parking lot and will have public bathrooms. Hopefully to be used for education along with the Hot Potato School house and the grounds. \$100,000 based on the approval of the grant

Hot Potato School: Finally moved now we need additional funds to complete the school for viewing and education. \$15,000

Albion Park Swings: This should have been included when we completed the renovation but there cost overruns and is being represented. We have done this at all the parks in the past. \$10,000

Trash Collection Truck: Money from the Municipal Capital Budget. This is for our basic trash and we are actually a year behind in the renewal. The 3rd truck that we have has over 200K in miles. Will be

put out to a five year payment plan. \$215,000 with a 5 year payment plan

Rescue Truck: We have gone up with calls and these trucks take a beating. We need an additional truck at this time. \$225,000. An additional trash truck is needed and the TA would like to take the funds from the Fund50. We will be looking for an additional Rescue next year to keep with the plan.

Comments: TA wants to take the money from Fund 50, Mr. Turner said we should be using the 5 years as we have in the past Fund 50 is not for that use. Mr. Turner also asked about the Hearthside porch and TA said that we are trying to get a Grant and that the porch has to be rebuilt as it is a historical building this will be at a cost of approximately \$45,000.

Twin River revenue will stay at 1% until 2018 this has been extended with the new bill to 2030 there is a caveat however regarding if Tiverton's building begins before 2017.

Department 4100 Expenses: Why does this not get spent? If we don't need it we don't look for things to spend it on however, there is some years that it is needed.

TA Fire Department Study, \$9400. Was encumbered before the end of the fiscal year.

Department 4130 Labor and Negotiations: The budget always is below the budgeted amount this item needs to be left in as we use it for arbitration of legal issues, i.e. Human Resources, TA, Legal issues. Past overlaps.

Department 4140: New Cabinet needed

Department 4200 Police – Public Safety: Radio Maintenance, Radios are being repaired and we are experiencing dead spots in some areas. We will be looking to add a cell tower in certain areas of the town. The tower will have to satisfy the public safety concerns. On another note the Fire Department in Lime rock is also having the same issues with dead spots? These are two separate issues.

The vehicles to be replaced will be 2 cars and 1 SUV for the Police Department

Radio Maintenance is the IMC contract agreements for the computer in the police vehicles, 2 pieces from the technology equipment.

Officers now have stipend of \$5000 each

Department 4210 Rescue- Public Safety: OT is a combination of vacation, sick days, people training, Holidays this is equal to 30% of salary.

Department 4400 Public Works Public Building: Driver/ Laborer is a new status so that the position will have a dual purpose. This is a shift from the laborer only position. There will be a savings in not having to capitalize for new trucks, fuel, ins. Etc.... This will also allow us to have more projects completed in the Town.

Police Grant 4200: The police have put in for a grant for the JAG program that we currently use for training. Some of the grants are matching this way the amount of money will be lessened from the appropriations.

Town Council 4820: Expenses are never more than half of the amount, we will see Mr. Macksoud when we visit with the boards and commissions on the 16th. Claims and settlement money is never

expended, also this money is used for abatement of municipal bills in dispute. Codification is done by the Town Clerk mostly on line however there is always a need for copies in print.

Municipal Capital Expenditures: Recycling bins- The \$70K from last year and \$45K for the next 5 years will take care of the recycling bins. For a total of \$295K with an additional amount of \$75K coming from the Recycling Department 5000 to complete the total of \$370K.

TA Comments: We asked Joe for additional information such as prints of proposals and Joe stated that they will not be getting architectural designs if we don't use the money for intentions they the money reverts back to the Fund it came from. When the money is approved it is restricted until used.

Question to the TA: Regarding the film for the windows on the school? Mr Almond said he didn't take it out he just didn't bother to include it.

John Ward Finance Director: Difference in the RIDE # for Aid he uses the Governors numbers not the RIDE numbers.

FTM Expenses- This is for printing ballots, paying workers, transcripts, videographer etc. This number should stay the same unless printing rises.

Finance 4150- Expense fund is never used John stated he is cheap some years they need more things than others usually spends around \$9500.00. Postage we didn't get billed for the tax bills two years ago so last year they billed us for Two years together. Bank fees, we switched banks and saved money \$2162. Yearly is the most accurate amount.

Department 4170 Information Technology - IT maintenance supports consists of subscriptions, maintenance, various programs we will be upgrading to Microsoft 2013 this year on all Town computers. Tech support \$2500 increase to \$37,500 will be spent this year. We use outside support for projects. i.e. Server replacement, Police station security upgrade and the Senior Center. We spend 30-40K a year on outsources.

Department 4200 Police- There is an increase in tuition for the Police Officers reimbursement.

Department 4204 Animal Control- Gas seems to be higher even though the price is down. John will check and respond to us with answer.

Department 4210 Rescue/Salaries- Audited Salaries should be on the lines they correspond with separate lines for jobs should be corresponded with on the audit. John stated this is how it has always been done. If we see the separation then we will get a better idea of exact salary being paid.

Department 4230 Human Services/Salaries- Part time custodian should not be in this area this is being paid through the library and should be in that department. John stated this will be fixed on going. This also affects Department 4800 Library.

Department 4830 Town Solicitor- Litigation & research this is also so that we can arbitrate cases rather than go with a full court hearing. Police Prosecutions, this is for the police litigation not always used but need a line item in the event that we need one.

Department 4880 Planning Board- This is based on how many times

meetings are held. Expense in the negative is the amount that we need are reimburse for advertising, which is also depending on how many items are brought before the Board. It is really an unknown.

Department 4940 Personnel Board- Also depends on the number of meetings needed.

Department 5200 Land Trust- This amount is a place holder so when this is needed we can fund it. This is stated in the Town Charter.

Department 5300 Municipal Court- Computer expense fee this amount is needed for the software that gets the information from our court transcripts to the legal system (Jones outside firm for maintaining).

Department 4700 Fixed Charges- Health Care this is calculated as 5% on this year's expended amount to forecast future and some of this increase is for retirement changes to Medicare B. Retirement Health Care, Health Care and OPEB.

Department 9000- The figure of audited 2014-15 is 49,679.968 is an incorrect amount and John will fix this and send out new pages. This is actually 2013-14 Audited number.

Motion made by Bob Turner seconded by Bill DiBiasio to table the Education Budget until next meeting. Unanimous vote

Additional Comments

Town Administrator mentioned that the contract for the Casino may be in our favor if Tiverton is not built.

It was also noted to the TA and Finance Director that the School Department needs to establish a fund for replacement of the Turf on the new field in the total amount of \$400K every 5-8 years. It is our understanding that the school department receives 60K-90K yearly

for past rentals. This fiscal year the school department has collected \$14,915.00 in rentals as of January 2016. John Ward to contact Lori Miller to set up new fund.

Mike Babbitt asked TA Almond if we could create a Capital committee. This committee could vet out the projects and see if the \$\$ make sense before we waste time trying to establish what is really needed. TA Almond is taking into consideration maybe they could meet 2 to 3 times a year. This will also be for the School Department projects and repairs.

Bob Turner to TA Almond regarding the Jergensen property. When the town voters approved the purchase of the open land this was stated in the resolution that we were purchasing 50 acres. On or about April 21, 2015 prior to the Town Financial Meeting the property was subdivided to 48 acres. As the Town Council put this resolution together it should have been made clear to the voters by stated at the FTM by updating the resolution, that the property was now 48 acres since they have divided the houses from the property. TA Almond said he didn't feel as though this was an issue as the houses were never to be include. Rhonda Lacombe stated that it looks bad that we ask them to vote on 50 acres and then purchase we realize that the difference in the price was 200K less but how was the appraisal written. TA Almond states that the appraisal was done with-out the houses. So the Town council new all along that the property should have read the difference and just chose to inflate the number? This may be a question at the Town meeting one that Mr. Macksoud will have to address.

Announcements:

Boards and Commissions 3/16/17

Public Meeting 3/17/17

Adjournment

Mike Babbitt moved that the meeting be adjourned, and this was seconded by Maria Marcello and agreed upon at 10:20.

Rhonda K Lacombe

Corresponding Secretary

Budget Board Date of Approval